

(19) World Intellectual Property
Organization
International Bureau



(43) International Publication Date
9 June 2005 (09.06.2005)

PCT

(10) International Publication Number
WO 2005/052149 A1

(51) International Patent Classification⁷: C12N 9/48,
15/52, 15/63, C07K 16/18, A61K 38/16, C30B 7/00

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(21) International Application Number:
PCT/GB2004/004731

(81) Designated States (*unless otherwise indicated, for every
kind of national protection available*): AE, AG, AL, AM,
AT, AU, AZ, BA, BB, BG, BR, BW, BY, BZ, CA, CH, CN,
CO, CR, CU, CZ, DE, DK, DM, DZ, EC, EE, EG, ES, FI,
GB, GD, GE, GH, GM, HR, HU, ID, IL, IN, IS, JP, KE,
KG, KP, KR, KZ, LC, LK, LR, LS, LT, LU, LV, MA, MD,
MG, MK, MN, MW, MX, MZ, NA, NI, NO, NZ, OM, PG,
PH, PL, PT, RO, RU, SC, SD, SE, SG, SK, SL, SY, TJ, TM,
TN, TR, TT, TZ, UA, UG, US, UZ, VC, VN, YU, ZA, ZM,
ZW.

(22) International Filing Date:
10 November 2004 (10.11.2004)

(25) Filing Language: English

(26) Publication Language: English

(30) Priority Data:
0326676.4 15 November 2003 (15.11.2003) GB

(84) Designated States (*unless otherwise indicated, for every
kind of regional protection available*): ARIPO (BW, GH,
GM, KE, LS, MW, MZ, NA, SD, SL, SZ, TZ, UG, ZM,
ZW), Eurasian (AM, AZ, BY, KG, KZ, MD, RU, TJ, TM),
European (AT, BE, BG, CH, CY, CZ, DE, DK, EE, ES, FI,
FR, GB, GR, HU, IE, IS, IT, LU, MC, NL, PL, PT, RO, SE,
SI, SK, TR), OAPI (BF, BJ, CF, CG, CI, CM, GA, GN, GQ,
GW, ML, MR, NE, SN, TD, TG).

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Published:

- with international search report
- before the expiration of the time limit for amending the
claims and to be republished in the event of receipt of
amendments

*For two-letter codes and other abbreviations, refer to the "Guid-
ance Notes on Codes and Abbreviations" appearing at the begin-
ning of each regular issue of the PCT Gazette.*

(54) Title: CARBOXYPERTIDASE U (CPU) MUTANTS

(57) Abstract: This invention relates to mutant forms of carboxypeptidase U with increased thermal stability relative to wild-type. In addition to the individual thermal stabilising mutations identified (at positions 166, 204, 219, 230, 251, 315), the inventors have identified a region (S327 - H357) that is crucial to the stability of CPU. The invention relates to nucleic acid encoding such mutant forms and the polypeptides encoded thereby. The invention also relates to methods and materials for making CPU mutants with increased thermal stability relative to wild-type and their use, for example to produce crystals of CPU or proCPU for 3-dimensional structure determination, or in therapy.



WO 2005/052149 A1